Agro-Based Industry in Northern Bihar

†2035. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that no plant has been set up so far in Northern region of Bihar to promote agriculture based industry;

(b) is so, whether any such proposal is under consideration or has been approved; and

(c) if so, the details of the such proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Agriculture do not set up any plant to promote agriculture based industries on its own. However, the Department of Food Processing Industries, under its Plan Schemes, provides concessional finance to public sector/private sector/non-governmental organisations/cooperatives, etc., for setting up food processing industries. During the current financial year, soft loan assistance of Rs. 18.77 lakhs was provided to M/s Amrapali Foods Ltd., Patna for expansion-cum-modernisation of their fruit and vegetable unit at Hajipur, Bihar. An amount of Rs. 52 lakhs was provided as loan to M/s Modern Food Industries (India) Ltd. in 1997-98 for setting up an energy food manufacturing unit at Patna.

Under the existing system of financing village industries projects with margin money assistance under Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), the individuals as well as organisational entrepreneurs submit their project proposals to the rural branches of the nationalised scheduled commercial banks, regional rural banks, other banks, etc., who are empowered to approve/sanction projects by taking their own credit decisions. Eight agro-based industries *viz.* bee-keeping, ghani oil, cane gur and khandsari, palm gur, processing of cereals and pulses, collection of forest plants and fruits, fruits & vegetable processing and preservation, and fibre, are being implemented in Bihar under the purview of KVIC.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.